

**FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2008**

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Jim Whitaker called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

* **FMATS Policy Committee members**
** **FMATS Staff members**
*** **FMATS Technical Committee members**

NAME	REPRESENTING
* Gerald J. Rafson	Representing Steve Titus, DOT&PF Regional Director, NR
* Mayor Terry Strle	City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Jim Whitaker	Fairbanks North Star Borough
* Luke Hopkins	Borough Assembly Representative, FNSB
* Chad Roberts	City Council Representative, City of Fairbanks
* Mayor Doug Isaacson	City of North Pole
* Tom Chapple	DEC, Director, Air Quality Division absent
*** Joan Hardesty	DEC
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB, Transit Director
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Transportation Planner
** Alexa Greene	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Assistant Transportation Planner
** Todd Boyce	FNSB, Planning
Jaime Schwartzwald	DOT&PF, Public Info Officer
Dave Bloom	DOT&PF, D&ES Chief
Glenn Miller	FNSB
Bob Tilly	
James Conner	FNSB, Air Quality
David Leone	FNSB, Transportation
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks
Chris Eshleman	Fairbanks Daily News Miner
Edith Tomany	
Jo Schlotfeldt	DOT Staff

3. Public Comments

Edith Tomany, resident of the North Pole/Chena Lakes area, commented that the Johansen/Steese Study should have been done before the highway was put in and that the money could have been used in the Plack/Hurst/Nelson area. The Dawson Extension has not been completed and should be done without more waiting. This extension would be about a half-mile stretch from Plack to Dawson and would enable the North Star Volunteer Fire Station to increase their

emergency response time. Also the Richardson Highway from the Badger exit to North Pole is in bad shape already, it has several holes, cracks, breakage and dips. Ms. Tomany wanted to know if there was any way to have the company responsible for the building of the road becoming responsible for the poor condition of it now.

4. Approval of the February 20, 2008 Agenda

Glenn Miller requested that item 8b. Allocation for the CMAQ funding relative to PM 2.5 and Mayor Doug Isaacson requested that item 8c. Traffic Calming Devices in design plans, be added to the agenda.

- **MOTION** to approve the February 20, 2008 agenda as amended. (Strle/Isaacson). No opposition. Approved.

5. Approval of January 25, 2008 Policy Committee minutes

- **MOTION** to approve the January 25, 2008 minutes as presented. No opposition. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

a. FMATS Coordinator Hiring Committee

Mayor Terry Strle reported the position was advertised in November and December at a cost of about \$10,000. The hiring committee conducted interviews and offered a candidate the position. She stated that she would be hearing from the candidate soon.

b. FMATS Technical Committee

Jeff Roach reported that at the last Technical Committee meeting that three main items of new business were discussed. Those being the Safe Routes to School Program, the CMAQ PM 2.5 Project Scope and the Construction Obligations for FFY 08. There were no decisions or action items that carried forward to the Policy Committee.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

a. Safe Routes to School Program

Alexa Greene, DOT&PF, Asst. Planner, presented information regarding a federal grant program to encourage schools to develop better walking and biking ways to school. The goals of the program are to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school; make biking and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle; and to help facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

There are approximately \$1 million in grants available statewide this year

for projects. Individual schools make the grant application with the help of the School District, MPO or DOT&PF.

There was discussion as to how the grants and programs work. There was concern that the individual schools may not be able to do the grants themselves and that the MPO may need to step in to manage those grants. It was decided that more information was needed for the program as a whole.

b. PM 2.5 and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)

Glenn Miller gave information regarding the additional scope of work which DEC, FNSB and DOT have been working on for the second portion of the CMAQ federal money to study the source what the Transportation aspect of the PM 2.5 problems here in the Borough.

Jeff Roach brought members up to date on this report. At the last Policy Committee meeting, there was a reallocation of \$350,000 from a previous project for the study of low-sulfur fuels was approved for the PM 2.5 project; bringing that total to \$1 million. The Policy Committee asked for a follow up scope for the remaining \$1.4 million available in FFY08 for the PM 2.5 project.

Jim Connor, FNSB, Air Quality Specialist, discussed in detail the handout presented for the second phase of the project.

Mayor Jim Whitaker noted the IM elimination schedule is still on schedule for 2010 and that the PM 2.5 project is not a continuation of the IM program, which is relative to CO.

c. Traffic Calming

Mayor Isaacson reported that at the North Pole City Council there has been significant public comment regarding Homestead Road, which will connect a high school with a residential community. The community has asked the North Pole City Council to find ways to reduce the traffic speed. The community feels that there are not enough police, and photo ticketing may not be a possibility. Mayor Isaacson asked if traffic calming devices had been an incorporated into the current project.

Dave Bloom, DOT&PF, Preconstruction Engineer, said that traffic calming devices have not been considered for this project and that it is currently being designed to the standard classification for state roads.

Chad Roberts, City of Fairbanks Representative, asked if traffic calming could be incorporated into these and future projects.

Mike Schmetzer, City of Fairbanks, Engineer, stated that the Municipality of Anchorage has about 2,000 speed humps and that the cost for each

one is about \$4,000 to \$5,000. Those particular speed humps are 22 feet long and 3"- 4" high and limit speed to about 20mph. Snowplows, ambulance and fire vehicles can still use the area. The public response to these has been overwhelmingly positive.

9. Public Comment

Edith Tomany asked if airplanes and recreational vehicles have been discussed as contributors to the air quality issues.

10. Other Issues

None

11. Informational Item.

a. TIP Obligation Status

Jeff Roach reported that there are a few projects awaiting match funds before a project can be started. Those projects being: the 23rd Avenue Improvements project; the Leasure Subdivision Improvements project; and the North Pole Bike Path Rehab/Connections Projects. Cushman Street Reconstruction has been obligated.

Plack Road is currently at FHWA for approval. Trainor Gate/Farewell Intersection project is currently awaiting the scope from the City of Fairbanks. FMATS Preventative Maintenance program is looking at March 2008 for the obligation of the construction funding for the projects listed. The North Pole/8th Ave Bike Path is currently at the FNSB & School District regarding combining that \$50,000 with a project at the middle school.

Mr. Roach stated that there may be a few issues which may impact obligation for the FFY 08 funds. The first being that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be updated after the Statewide 2020 plan update is approved.

The second being that there are several projects obligating late in the fiscal year. If there are any delays, that funding will not be obligated and that funding may be lost. DOT&PF is currently looking for solutions and any suggests are welcome.

Adjourn – 11:45 am

Next Scheduled Policy Committee Meeting is March 19, 2008 at 10:00 am.

Approved:


Steve Titus, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 3/21/08